



Department of Conservation

Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources – District 3

195 South Broadway • Suite 101

Orcutt, CA 93455

(805) 937-7246 • FAX (805) 937-0673

PUBLIC NOTICE: 15-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (“Division”), with concurrence of both the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (collectively “Water Boards”), have provided additional information to the proposed exemption and, therefore, reopened a 15-day supplemental comment period to receive comment on the changes.

On August 20, 2015, the Division and the Water Boards publically noticed a proposal to expand the current aquifer exemption designation for the Dollie sands of the Pismo formation in the Arroyo Grande oil field (in unincorporated San Luis Obispo county near the intersection of Ormonde Road and Price Canyon Road). Subject to approval by the US Environmental Protection Agency (“US EPA”), the proposed aquifer exemption would allow the State, in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, to approve Class II injection into the identified area, either for enhanced oil recovery or for injection disposal of fluids associated with oil and gas production. Based on consultation as required under Public Resources Code section 3131, the Division and the Water Boards preliminarily concur that the proposed aquifer exemption area meets the criteria for exemption under the Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 146.4 because it does not currently serve as a source of drinking water, and it will not serve as a source of drinking water in the future because the area is currently hydrocarbon producing or is capable of hydrocarbon production. The Division and the Water Boards also preliminarily concur that the injected fluid is expected to remain in the area that would be exempted and is not expected to affect the quality of water that is, or may reasonably be, used for any beneficial use, due to geologic conditions and hydraulic controls. The Division invites written comments to be submitted by email to

Comments@conservation.ca.gov; by facsimile (FAX) to (916) 324-0948;

by mail to: Department of Conservation, 801 K Street, MS 24-02, Sacramento, CA 95814, ATTN: Aquifer Exemption. The written comment period closes at 5 pm on December 16, 2015, and the Department will not consider any comments received at the Department's offices after that time.

The complete aquifer exemption proposal, pertinent background information, and any additions to the proposal can be accessed at www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/Aquifer_Exemptions.aspx or obtained from the local Division Office, 195 S. Broadway, Ste 101, Orcutt, CA 93455 or by contacting Jon Iverson, 805-937-7246. If the Division and the Water Boards elect to submit the aquifer exemption proposal to US EPA, it will prepare a document that (1) announces the decision, (2) provides a concise statement of the basis for the decision, and (3) summarizes the substantive comments received (including oral comments received at a hearing) and the disposition of those comments.

Signed: Patricia A. Abel, District Deputy